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1 OF SIX

The Comix of Two Cities

MATT HOWARTH

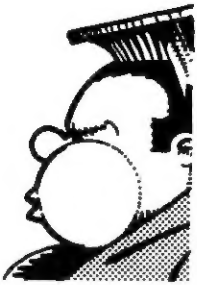
One world...two cities...two cultures

Oppression

Revolution

Conflict

It's MOLE vs. CHUB



in

The Comix of Two Cities

by

Matt Howarth

based on life-forms created by THE RESIDENTS

This issue also features the talents of:

D.M. KISTER: story and art on the "Molebius Strip.
MICHELE PASSMAN: art for The Object on pp 10.
LOU STATHIS: script assist on "Hoverview".

THE COMIX OF TWO CITIES #1. May 1996. Published by ÆON, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. (206) 525-0632. Email E.VICK1@GENIE.GEIS.COM. Entire contents ©1996 Matt Howarth. All rights reserved. Some of the material in this issue was previously published by Howski Studios and Ralph Records in 1982 and 1983 in the limited edition mini-comics THE COMIX OF TWO CITIES #s 1 and 2. THE RESIDENTS, the MOLES and the CHUBS are all trademarked by the Cryptic Corporation. This is a work of fiction; any similarity between names, characters, and/or situations herein is purely coincidental.

THIS IS NOT PART THREE OF THE RESIDENTS' MOLE TRILOGY.

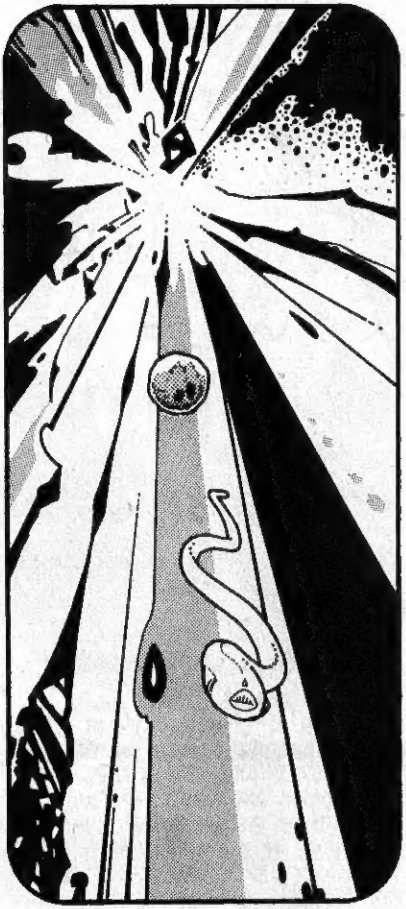
First Printing.

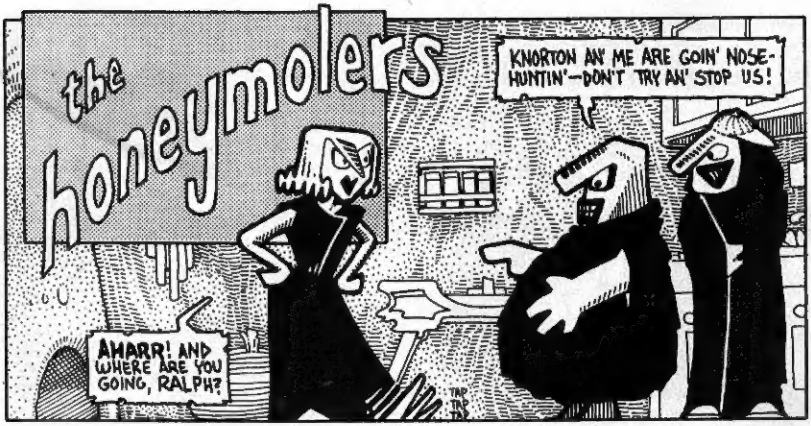
MUPubs #299.

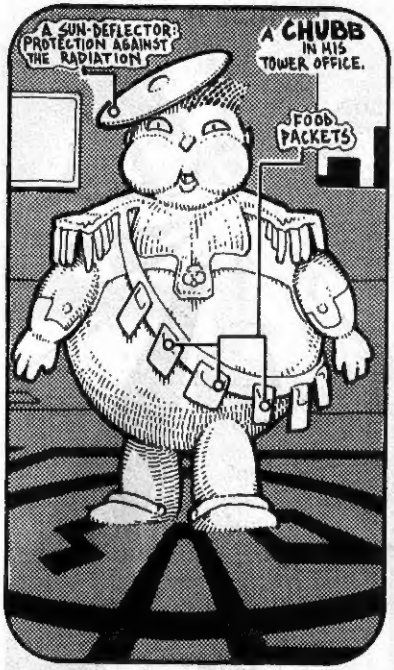
hover view

SOME PEOPLE FLED THE LITTLE WORLD WHEN THEIR SUN WENT **NOVA**—BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE **BLACK HOLE** DROPPED OUT OF **NEMO-SPACE** AND FROZE THE STELLAR EXPLOSION IN TIME IN ITS EVENT HORIZON. AS THE HOLE CONSUMED THE NOVA (A MEAL THAT WOULD LAST FOR ETERNITY), THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO REFUSED TO FLEE THEIR WORLD. UNDER A SAVAGE CONSTANT BATH OF HEAVY RADIATION, THEY REFUSED TO DIE—BUT THEY WERE WILLING TO MUTATE.

PICTURES AND WORDS BY MATT HOWARTH (MACH 8.82)





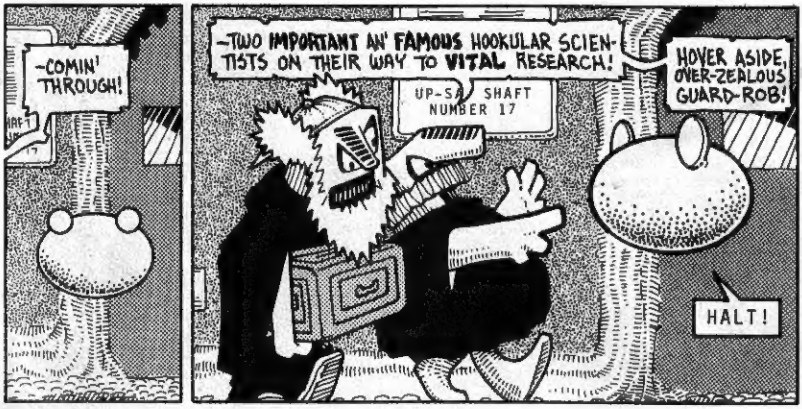


THE NORTHLANDERS DEVELOPED A THICK LAYER OF SPECIAL MINERAL FAT TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE LETHAL SUNLIGHT. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES **CHUBBS.** BEFORE LONG THEIR BUSY SCIENTISTS HAD PRODUCED A SUN-DEFLECTOR, SO—ALTHO THEY HAD TO STAY IN-DOORS A LOT—THE CHUBBS COULD CONTINUE THEIR LIVES ON THEIR BATTERED WORLD.

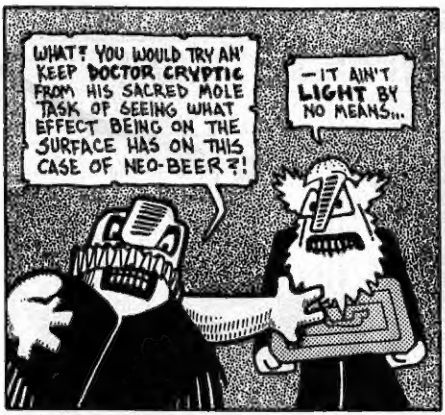
THE SOUTHLANDERS DID NOT CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN LIGHT. THEY DESCENDED INTO THE BOWELS OF THEIR LITTLE WORLD, WHERE—IN A PERPETUALLY DARK AND SHIELDED ENVIRONMENT—THEY BEGAN THEIR LIVES AS **MOLES.** BUT—THEIR WORLD WAS RADIOACTIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE (AS ARE MANY)—SO THEY MUTATED TOO.

THE CHUBBS BUILT VAST CITIES OF SHIELDED BUILDINGS AND LEARNED TO USE THE DANGEROUS SUNLIGHT AS A FREE POWER SOURCE TO LOWER THE COST OF LIVING TO A RIDICULOUSLY COMFORTABLE LEVEL. THEY EVEN SYNTHESIZED ENOUGH WATER TO REPLACE THE OCEANS THAT HAD ALL BOILED AWAY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE NOVA.

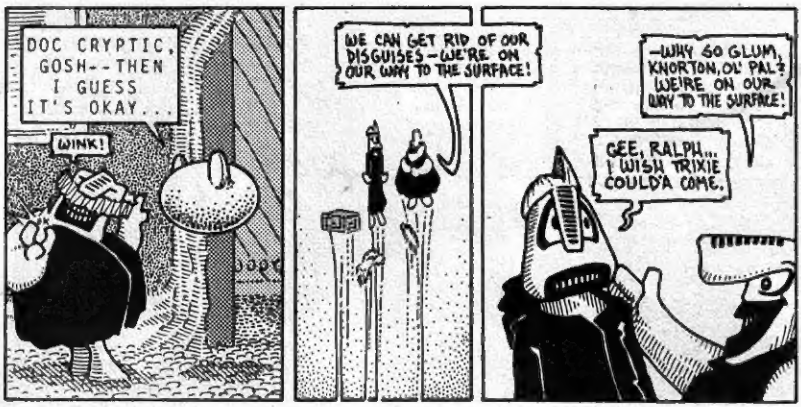
OVER THE AGES, THE CHUBBS LOST THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR TO THE STRICT CREDO OF THEIR TECHNOLOGY, FORCING THE RESIDENT MOTHER NATURE TO PRODUCE A STRAIN OF GENETIC THROWBACKS: LACKING IN CHUBB-FAT BUT BURSTING WITH LOST SILLINESS. THESE THROWBACKS OVERCAME THEIR VULNERABILITY TO THE CONSTANT RADIATION WITH SPECIAL SUITS. THE CHUBBS WERE IN AWE OF THIS INTRIGUING THING CALLED **LAUGHTER.** THEY DECIDED TO WORSHIP IT AND MADE THE DARK SKINNY MEN THE **KEEPERS** OF THE FUNNY VOICE. THE KEEPERS MAINTAINED LARGE VATS OF HELIUM IN OFFERING TO THE SACRED CHUCKLE.



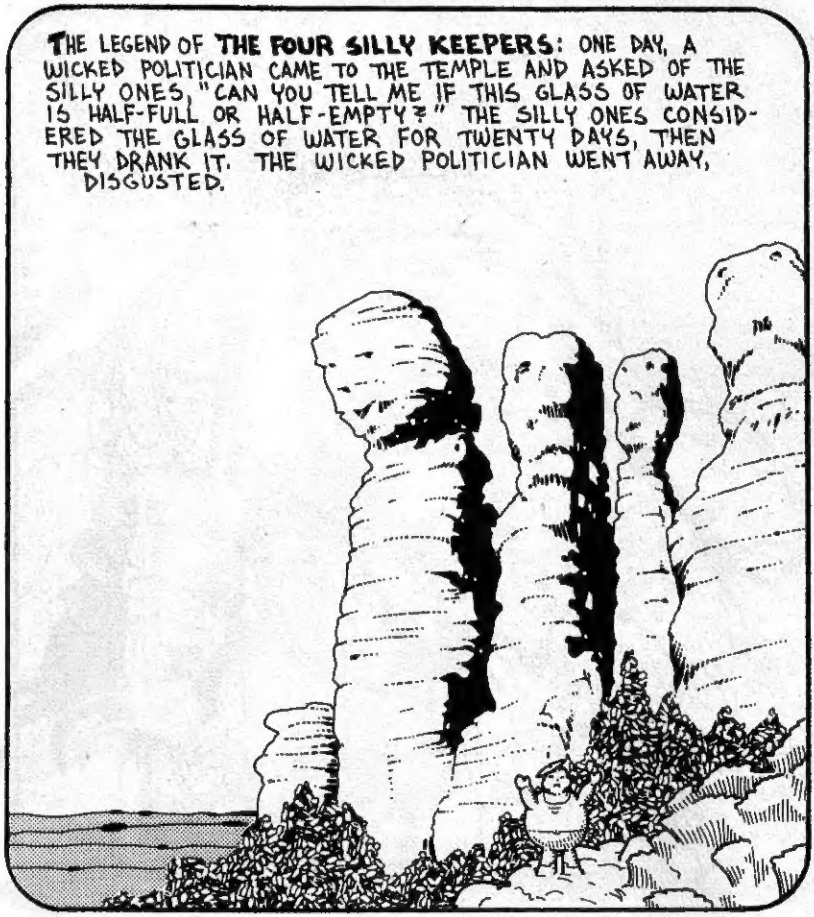
OFTEN, KEEPERS WOULD RACE THROUGH THE SAND MAZES OF MOANING JIGSAWS, TO PRACTICE THEIR GRASP OF ABSURDITY. FREQUENTLY THE CHUBBS TELEVISED THESE RACES, WAGERING VAST AMOUNTS OF TANGERINE-MEMORIES ON THE OUTCOME.

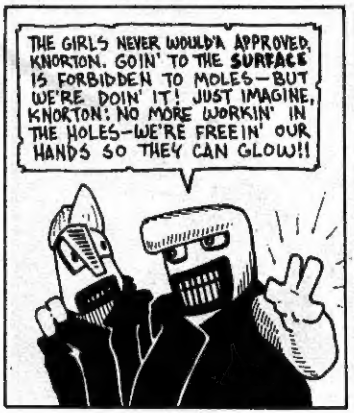


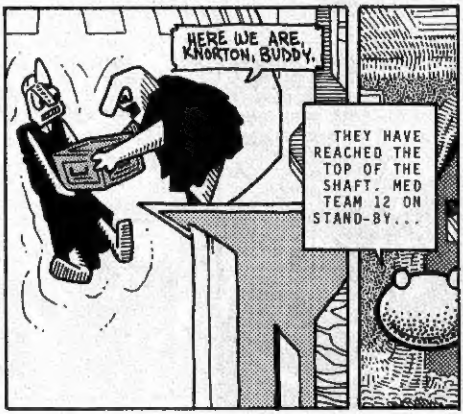
THE CHUBBS (AND EVEN THE MOLES) DESPERATELY LIVE IN FEAR OF THE **EVIL DISPOSER**, WHO (LEGEND DECLARES) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SUN GOING NOVA, BACK AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME. ALTHO THE KEEPERS DO NOT OPENLY WORRY ABOUT THE EVIL DISPOSER, THEY DO NOT MENTION HIS MOUNTAIN/CORPSE IN THEIR JOKES.



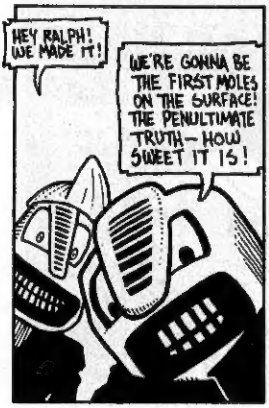
THE LEGEND OF **THE FOUR SILLY KEEPERS**: ONE DAY, A WICKED POLITICIAN CAME TO THE TEMPLE AND ASKED OF THE SILLY ONES, "CAN YOU TELL ME IF THIS GLASS OF WATER IS HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY?" THE SILLY ONES CONSIDERED THE GLASS OF WATER FOR TWENTY DAYS, THEN THEY DRANK IT. THE WICKED POLITICIAN WENT AWAY, DISGUSTED.



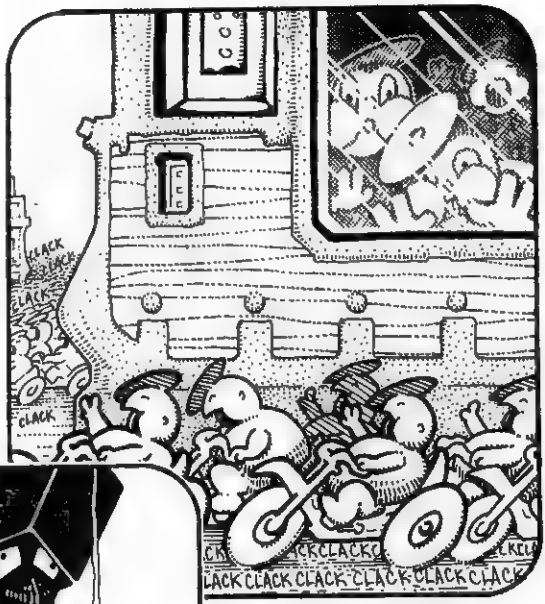


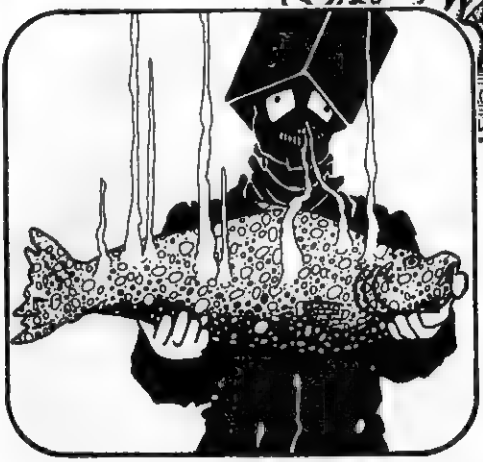


A CHUBB DAD AND HIS BOY'S DOG.



SOMETIMES, ON THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, YOUNG CHUBBS WHO HAVE NOT YET GROWN A THICK LAYER OF PROTECTIVE FAT FALL PREY TO THE EXTREME RADIATION AND GO MAD FOR A DAY, RIDING AROUND ON THEIR BIG WHEELS, MAKING A HORRIBLE NOISY RUCKUS. PACKS OF THESE **BRATTS** (AS THEIR ELDERS CALL THEM) HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BREAK MANY A CHUBB'S SANITY—SOME HAVE EVEN LAID SIEGE TO HOUSES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

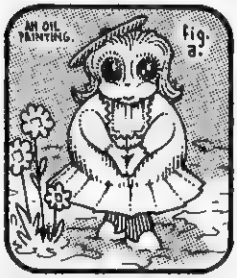


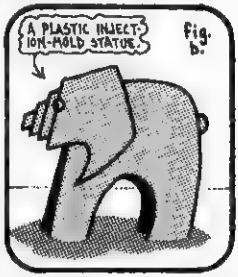


CHUBBS DO NOT CATCH FISH TO EAT THEM—THEY CATCH THEM TO SNIFF. ONCE A FISH IS BROUGHT OUT OF WATER, THE RADIATION CAUSES ITS SCALES TO GIVE OFF A GAS WHICH HAS A HIGHLY PSYCHODELIC EFFECT UPON CHUBB PHYSIOLOGY.

SNIFFING FISH IS ILLEGAL IN MANY CHUBB-STATES, BUT KEEPERS ARE ALLOWED TO DO IT, FOR IT FACILITATES THEIR SILLINESS.

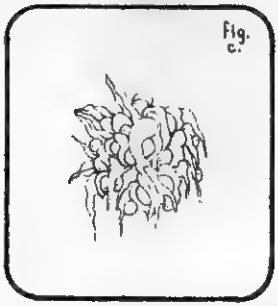
IF THE STATE OF A CULTURE CAN BE FOUND IN ITS ART, THEN THE ONLY WORD TO DESCRIBE





THE CHUBB CIVILIZATION IS **TACKY**. FIGURES **A** AND **B** ARE EXAMPLES OF CHUBB ART IN ITS PROUDEST MOMENTS—NOT POPULAR ART.

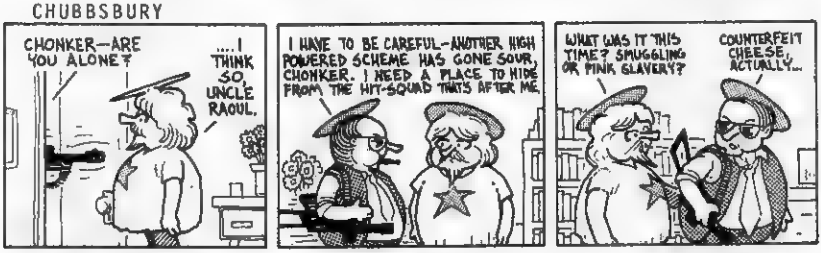
CHUBB POPULAR ART CONSISTS OF: CIRCUIT-BOARDS, JUNCTION BOXES AND WIRE-KNOTS.



CHUBB ARCHEOLOGY IS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT **THE OBJECT** (SEEN IN FIGURE **C**) IS.

WHILE CHUBB PSYCHO-ANALYSIS CONSISTS OF DROPPING ONESELF FROM INCREDIBLE HEIGHTS WITHOUT THE AID OF A PARACHUTE OR LAST MEAL.

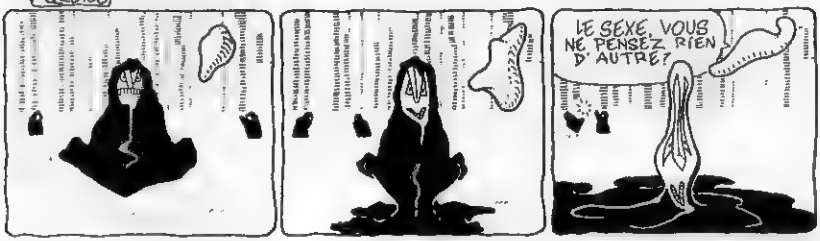
CHUBBSBURY



ASTRO-MOLE

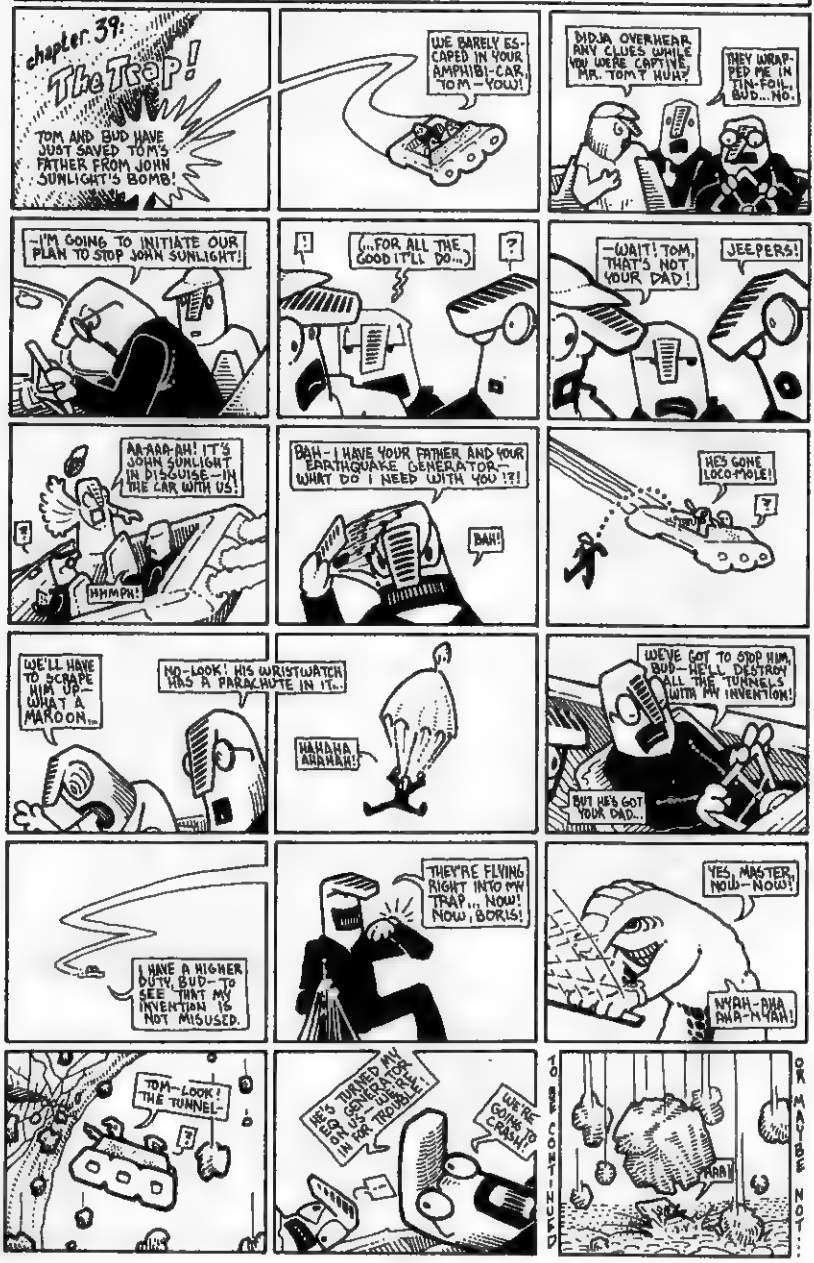
FAT FREDDIE'S FISH

MOEBIUS



ON GOLDEN CHUBB

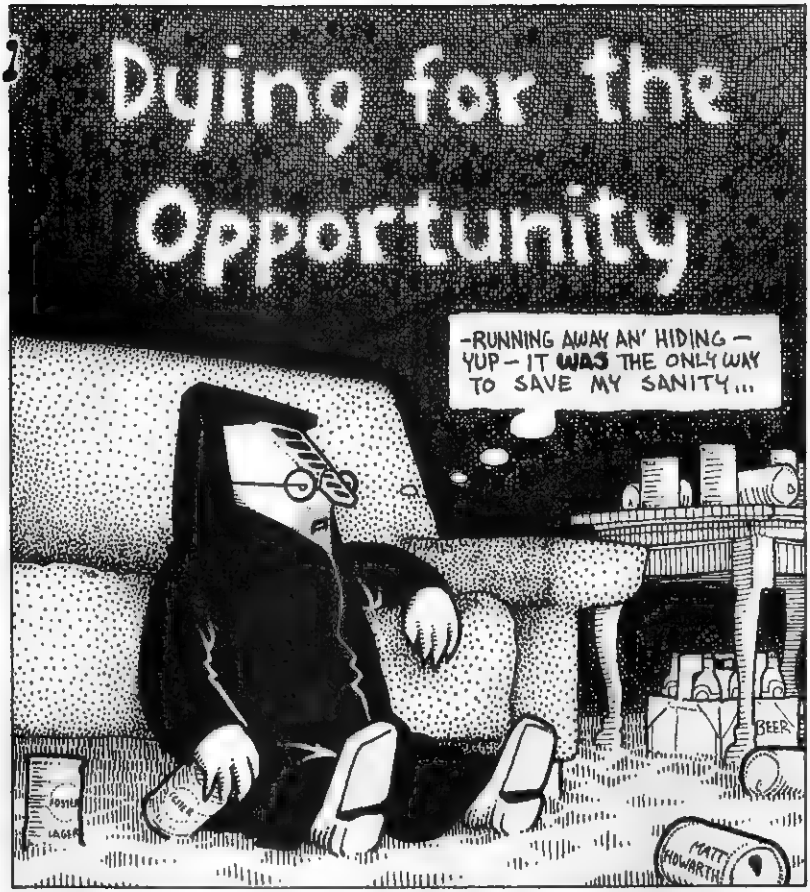
Tom Mole and the Electric Earthquake

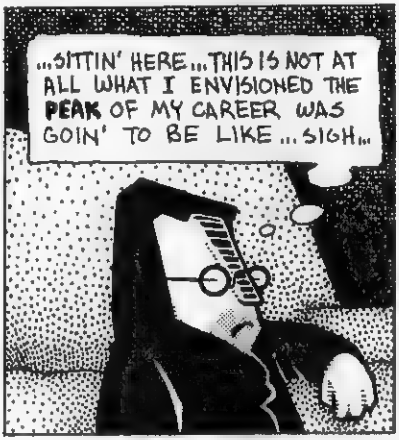


OSWALD WINTERLING HAS NOT LIVED UP TO THE GREATNESS OF HIS ANCESTORS. NOW HE NEVER WILL, EITHER, FOR HE HAS FINALLY ENTERED...
THE BURROW OF HORROR
URK!
PRETTY.
GASP! LOOK AT WHAT THIS HOLE WORKER HAS FOUND IN MY ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG!

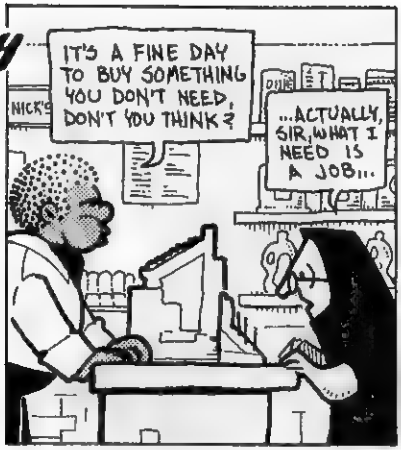
UNSPEAKABLY RARE NUMBUG EGGS!
THEY MUST BE MINE!
MISTER WINTERLING
LOOKIT WHAT I FINDS FOR YOU!
YES! THEY ARE MINE!
BLAM
YES.
WHAA?
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
THE END

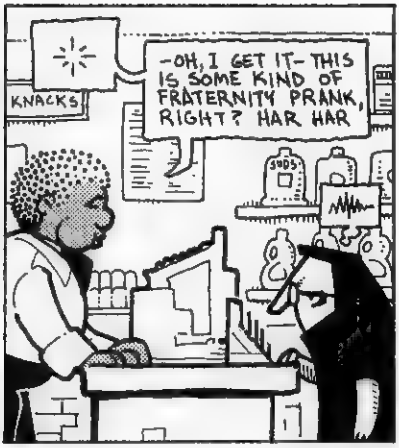
Dying for the Opportunity

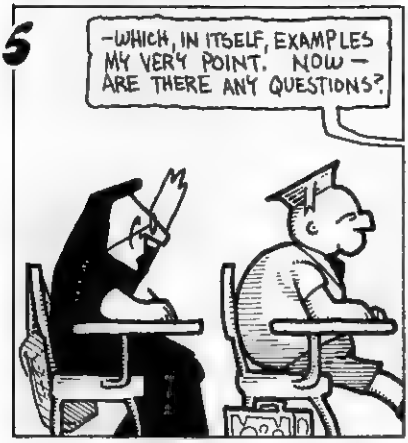




2
NEXT?
TRI-LATERAL ECONOMICS, PLEASE...
T-L-EC, CHECK, NEXT?
PEWTER PROGRAMMING, ON A TENNIS SCHOLARSHIP, SIR.
PEWTER PROG. NEXT?
LIBERAL ARTS, SIR.
QUARRY MAINTENANCE, NEXT?
HEY-NOW WAIT A-
3
CAN I HELP YOU, YOUNG MAN...?
YES, MA'AM, I'M LOOKING FOR LODGING.
WHY?


4
IT'S A FINE DAY TO BUY SOMETHING YOU DON'T NEED, DON'T YOU THINK?
...ACTUALLY, SIR, WHAT I NEED IS A JOB...
NICK'S

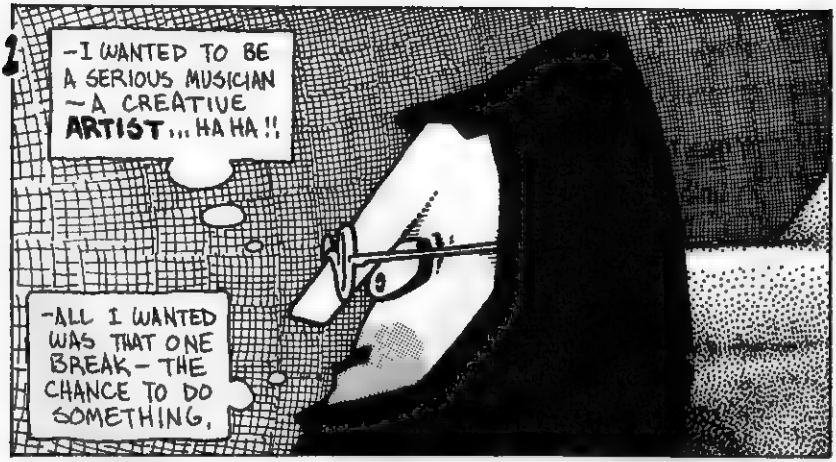

-OH, I GET IT- THIS IS SOME KIND OF FRATERNITY PRANK, RIGHT? HAR HAR
KNACKS
SUDS

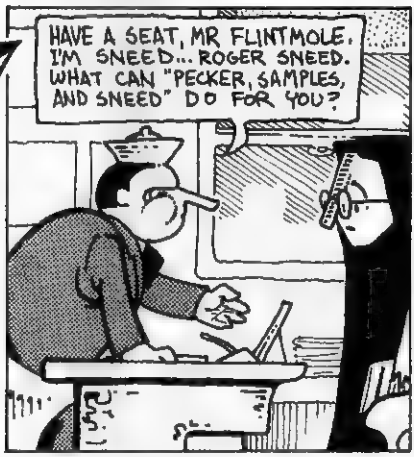

5
-WHICH, IN ITSELF, EXAMPLES MY VERY POINT. NOW — ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

NO? GOOD, WE CAN CONTINUE THEN —
SIR -?
zzzzzzz

6
OH, COME ON NOW, PHRED — I'M SURE IT ISN'T AS BAD AS ALL THAT. DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE COLORING IT IN THE RETELLING? AS AN "ARTIST" — BE HONEST NOW...

-I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT YOU CAN'T SIT ALONE AT A TABLE... HOUSE POLICY.
I DON'T EVEN WANNA THINK ABOUT IT, BOB. I JUST WANT TO EAT —
?
I'M WAITING FOR MY DATE, MISS.


2
-I WANTED TO BE A SERIOUS MUSICIAN ~A CREATIVE ARTIST... HA HA!!
-ALL I WANTED WAS THAT ONE BREAK- THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING,

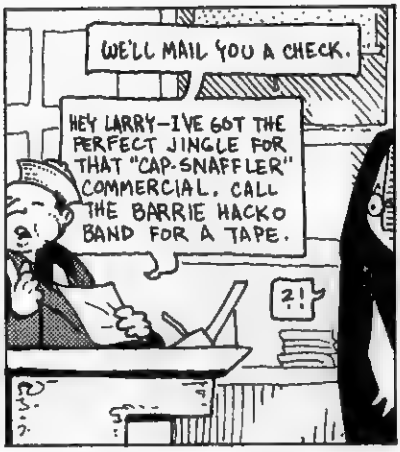

7
HAVE A SEAT, MR FLINTMOLE. I'M SNEED... ROGER SNEED. WHAT CAN "PECKER, SAMPLES, AND SNEED" DO FOR YOU?

WAIT- LET ME DAZZLE YOU WITH MY HIGHER INTELLECT- YOU'RE... A MUSICIAN, RIGHT? YOU HAVE A ROCK'N'ROLL ACT, RIGHT? MM?
ACTUALLY I HAVE A SONG.

-PRETTY CLOSE, THOUGH, HUH? I AMAZE MYSELF SOMETIMES, HEH HEH HEH. WELL, LET'S SEE - HMM - THIS IS PRETTY GOOD STUFF, FLINTMOLE.
IT'S A VERY SERIOUS PIECE, MR SNEED.

CALL ME TODD, FLINTMOLE, SIGN THIS RELEASE AND I'LL GIVE YOU 200 CHIPS FOR THE SONG.
THAT'S AWFULLY GENEROUS OF YOU, UH, TODD.

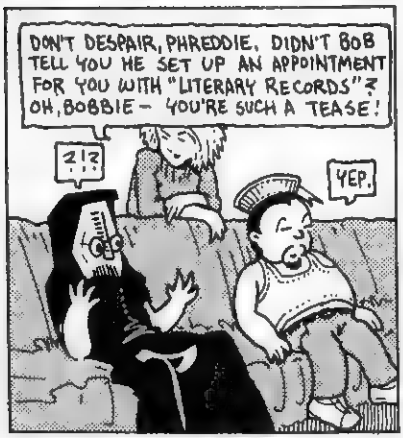
THAT'S THE SORT OF CHUB I AM. YOU'RE A COLLEGE-KID, AREN'T YOU? A FRESHMAN, RIGHT? (I TELL YOU—IT'S A GIFT...)


WE'LL MAIL YOU A CHECK.
HEY LARRY—I'VE GOT THE PERFECT JINGLE FOR THAT "CAP-SNAFFLER" COMMERCIAL. CALL THE BARRIE HACKO BAND FOR A TAPE.
?!

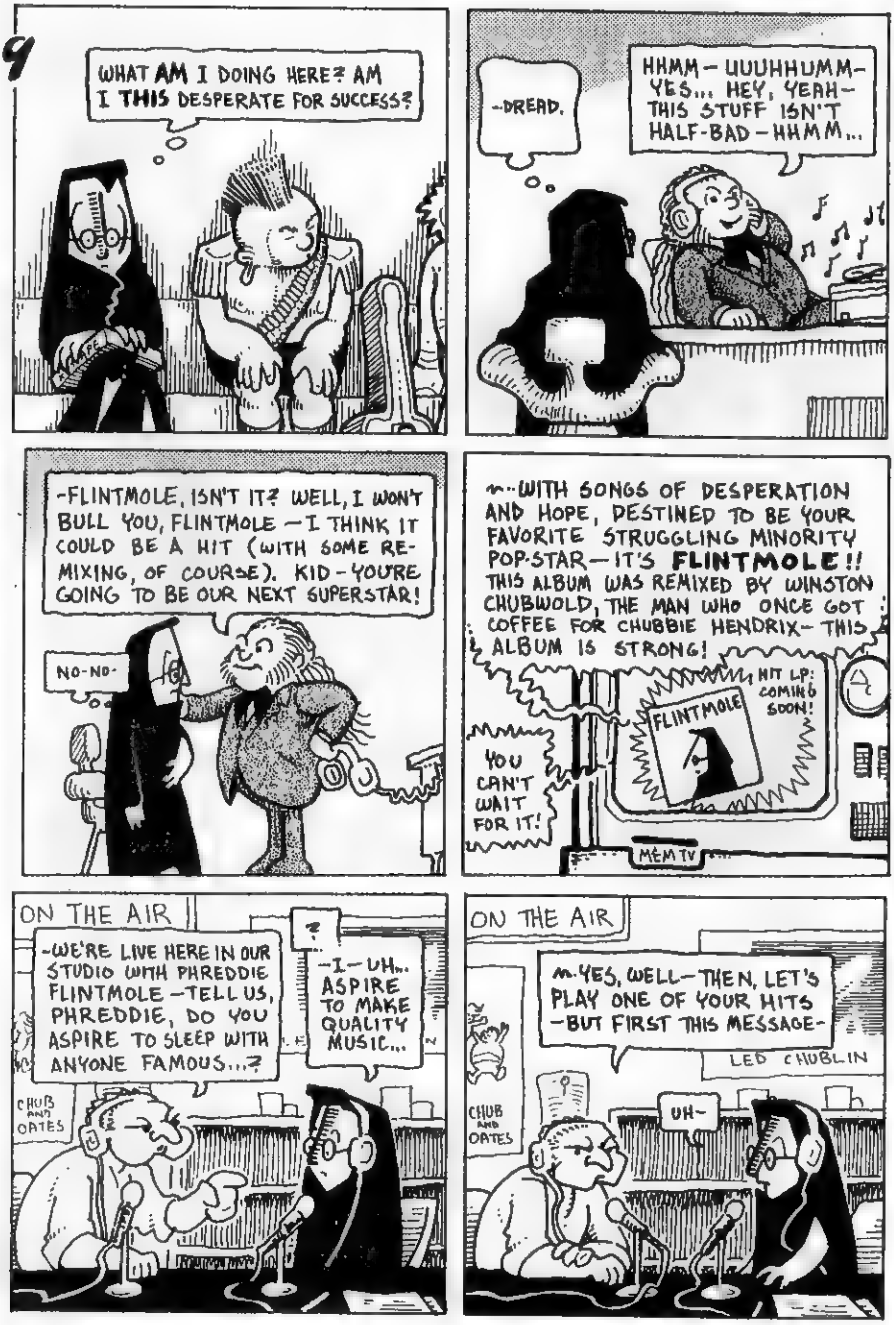
8

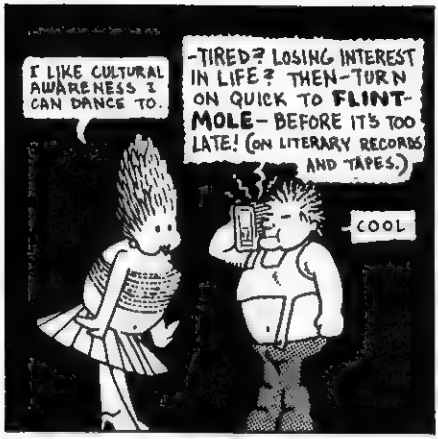
GOODNESS—WHAT AN AWFUL COMMERCIAL—AND WHAT THEY DID TO YOUR SONG, PHREDDIE, I'M SO SORRY, REALLY.
MOAN—
IT PAID HIS RENT.

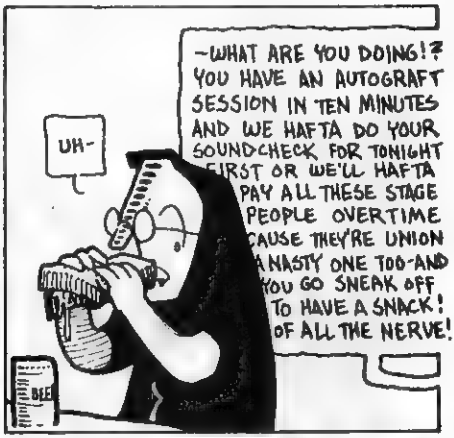
HE'S TAKIN' IT ALL WRONG. I THINK HE NEEDS MORE FRUIT IN HIS DIET— HIS ATTITUDE IS ALL SHOT.


DON'T DESPAIR, PHREDDIE. DIDN'T BOB TELL YOU HE SET UP AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU WITH "LITERARY RECORDS"? OH, BOBBIE— YOU'RE SUCH A TEASE!
?!?
YEP.

—YOU WHAT?
3:30 TOMORROW. THEY WANNA HEAR A DEMO-TAPE...


9
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? AM I THIS DESPERATE FOR SUCCESS?
-DREAD.
HHMM- UUUHHUMM- YES... HEY, YEAH- THIS STUFF ISN'T HALF-BAD - HHMM...
-FLINTMOLE, ISN'T IT? WELL, I WON'T BULL YOU, FLINTMOLE - I THINK IT COULD BE A HIT (WITH SOME RE-MIXING, OF COURSE). KID - YOU'RE GOING TO BE OUR NEXT SUPERSTAR!
NO-NO-
...WITH SONGS OF DESPERATION AND HOPE, DESTINED TO BE YOUR FAVORITE STRUGGLING MINORITY POP-STAR - IT'S FLINTMOLE!! THIS ALBUM WAS REMIXED BY WINSTON CHUBWOLD, THE MAN WHO ONCE GOT COFFEE FOR CHUBBIE HENDRIX - THIS ALBUM IS STRONG!
HIT LP: COMING SOON!
FLINTMOLE
YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR IT!
MEM TV
ON THE AIR
-WE'RE LIVE HERE IN OUR STUDIO WITH PHREDDIE FLINTMOLE - TELL US, PHREDDIE, DO YOU ASPIRE TO SLEEP WITH ANYONE FAMOUS...?
?
-I - UH... ASPIRE TO MAKE QUALITY MUSIC...
CHUB AND OATES
ON THE AIR
...YES, WELL - THEN, LET'S PLAY ONE OF YOUR HITS - BUT FIRST THIS MESSAGE-
LED CHUBLIN
UH-
CHUB AND OATES


I LIKE CULTURAL AWARENESS I CAN DANCE TO.
-TIRED? LOSING INTEREST IN LIFE? THEN-TURN ON QUICK TO FLINT-MOLE- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! (ON LITERARY RECORDS AND TAPES.)
COOL


UH-
-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? YOU HAVE AN AUTOGRAFT SESSION IN TEN MINUTES AND WE HAFTA DO YOUR SOUNDCHECK FOR TONIGHT FIRST OR WE'LL HAFTA PAY ALL THESE STAGE PEOPLE OVERTIME CAUSE THEY'RE UNION A NASTY ONE TOO-AND YOU GO SNEAK OFF TO HAVE A SNACK! OF ALL THE NERVE!

(WHAT ARE THEY DANCING TO? I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED PLAYING YET—THIS IS ABSURD!

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHY SHOULD ANYONE BUY THIS "FLINTMOLE'S" RECORD? ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TURN ON THE RADIO, RIGHT?
IT IS EVERY-WHERE, DAHLING.

-NO, SIR, I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE, SIR. I'D JUST LIKE SOME MONEY SO I CAN EAT OUT... NO, SIR-IT IS NOT A LUXURY....

10 Enemies of Artistic Endeavour:
① Busmen
① Businessmen
② Club Managers
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING TO MAKE MONEY?
② Club Managers
③ Helpful Advice
...MAYBE I JUS' NEVER MET THE RIGHT KIND OF PEOPLE... -JUS' BORN IN A HOLE—
NO! THEY'VE GOT ME THINKING OF MYSELF IN THEIR TERMS—AN' I'M NOT A SUFFERING HOLE-WORKER— I'M AN ARTIST!

WELL... AT LEAST, THA'S WHAT YOU STARTED OUT TO BE, PHRED...

11

SO HEY, HARRY, WHU'D'YA WANNA DO ABOUT THIS FLINTMOLE SITUATION, HEY?

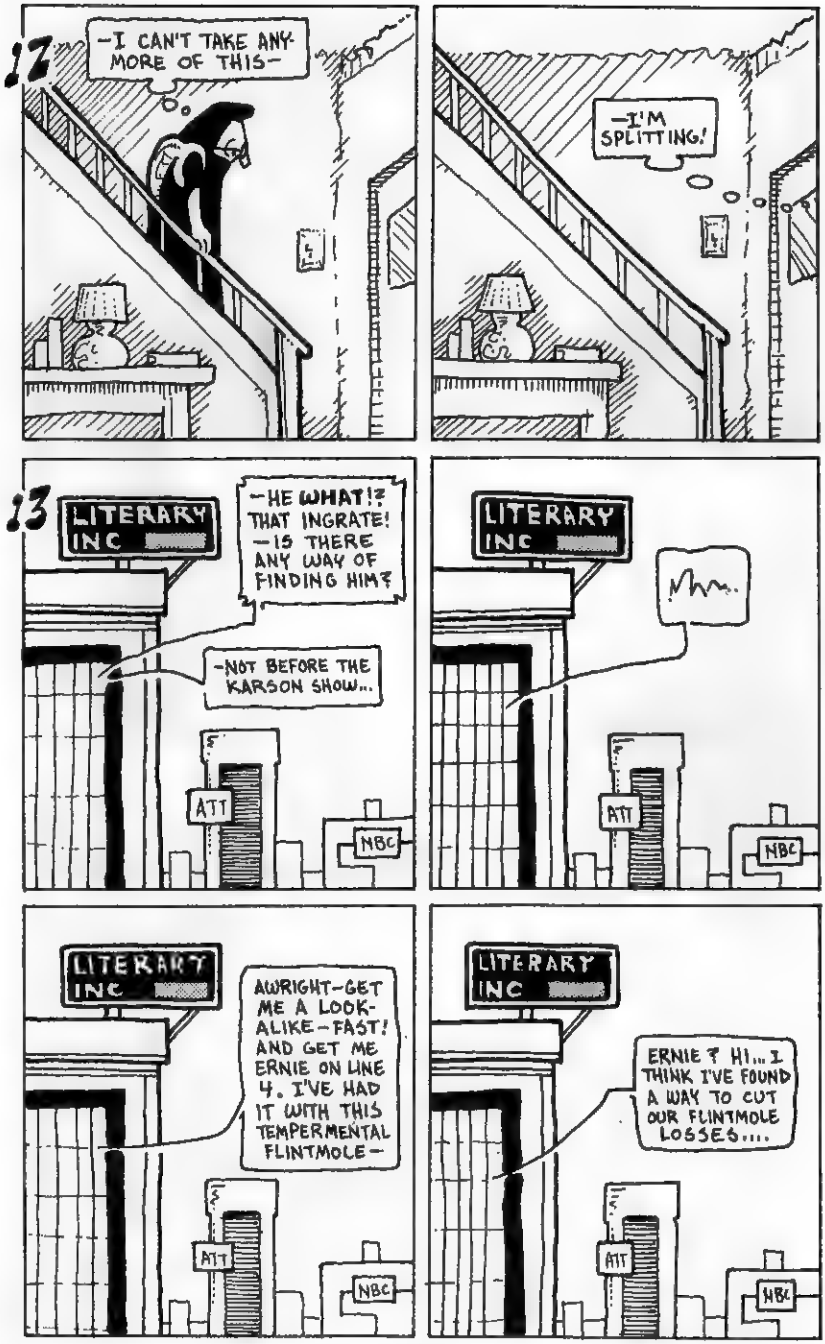
—FLINTMOLE... IS HE... THE MIGRANT MOLE OR THE GAY FOUR-YEAR-OLD?

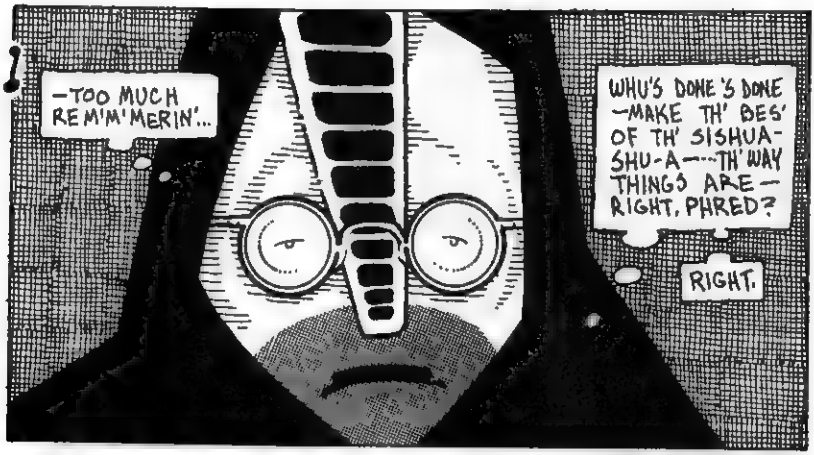
SO, LET'S SEE HIS CHART-HM-

HYPE
PRESS
AIR-PLAY
45 SALES
LP SALES

...HE NEEDS MORE PRESS. PUT HIM THROUGH A GOOD SCANDAL AND THEN GET HIM ON "THE TONIGHT SHOW".

I LIKE IT-


12
—I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS—
—I'M SPLITTING!
13
LITERARY INC
—HE WHAT!? THAT INGRATE! —IS THERE ANY WAY OF FINDING HIM?
—NOT BEFORE THE KARSON SHOW...
ATT
NBC
LITERARY INC
Mm...
ATT
NBC
LITERARY INC
AWRIGHT—GET ME A LOOK-ALIKE—FAST! AND GET ME ERNIE ON LINE 4. I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS TEMPERMENTAL FLINTMOLE—
ATT
NBC
LITERARY INC
ERNIE? HI... I THINK I'VE FOUND A WAY TO CUT OUR FLINTMOLE LOSSES....
ATT
NBC


-TOO MUCH REM'M'MERIN'...
WHU'S DONE'S DONE -MAKE TH' BES' OF TH' SISHUA-SHU-A----TH' WAY THINGS ARE - RIGHT, PHRED?
RIGHT.

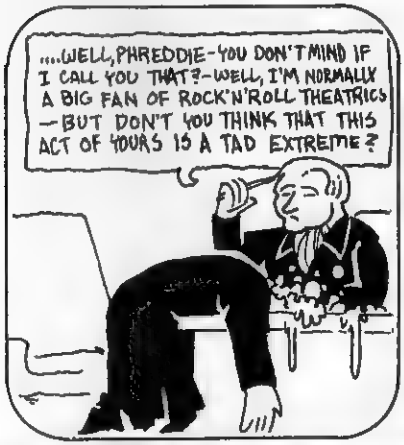
-WATCH SOME TEEVEE -YEAH - HAVE A' NUTHER BEER-
(CLIK)-ARE STILL TRYING TO FIND THE TERRORIST. WELL, DAN, LET'S LOOK AT THAT TAPE AGAIN FROM THIS EVENING'S FATEFUL "TONIGHT SHOW"- CAN WE ROLL
?!
TOP

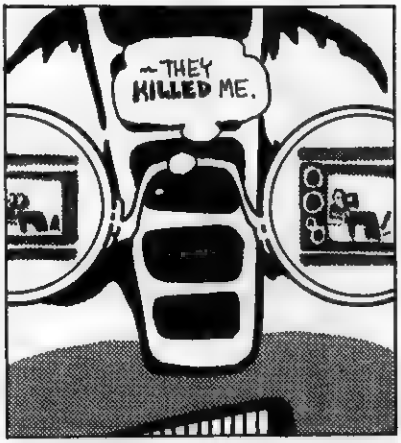
I MUST SAY THAT I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH YOUR ACT, MR FLINTMOLE - BUT YOU CERTAINLY ARE WOWING THE CROWDS, EH? WILL YOU DO A SONG FOR US?
MUG

I'D BE PROFOUNDLY HONORED TO, SIR...

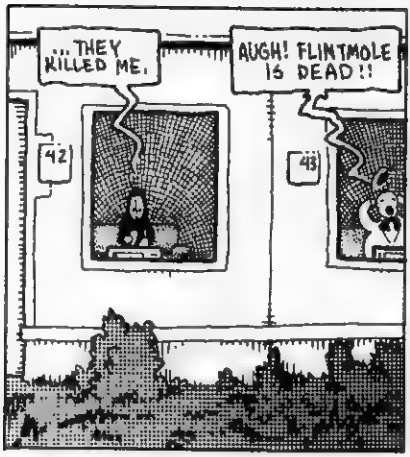
NO! ART MUST NOT PROSTITUTE ITSELF!
!?
?

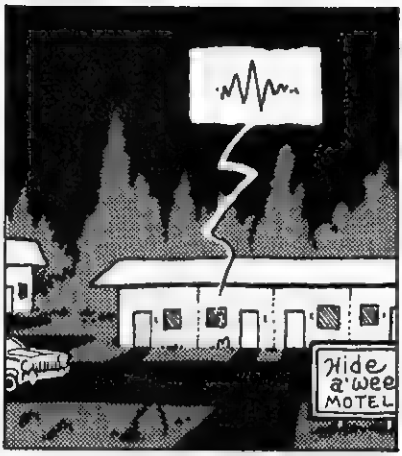
THE ARTISTIC REVOLUTION WILL TOLERATE IT NO LONGER!
—AN EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE!


....WELL, PHREDDIE—YOU DON'T MIND IF I CALL YOU THAT?—WELL, I'M NORMALLY A BIG FAN OF ROCK'N'ROLL THEATRICS—BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT THIS ACT OF YOURS IS A TAD EXTREME?


—THEY KILLED ME.

...THE RECORD COMPANY—THEY HIRED AN IMPERSONATOR TO GO ON WITH KARSON—AND THEY ASSASSINATED HIM—
—OR FAKED KILLING "HIM"—THAT WOULD BE CHEAPER... GOD, WHAT AM I SAYING?!
...A CANDLELIGHT FUNERAL SERVICE IS PLANNED AT THE LABREA TAR PITS FOR NEXT TUESDAY—
MOTEL TV





14

AFTER A WHILE, PHRED MOVED TO DULUTH, AND STARTED BLACKMAILING "LITERARY INC.". AS A ROCK-MARTYR, FLINTMOLE WAS WORTH MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE, SO "LITERARY" EAGERLY ADAPTED TO THE SITUATION AND THE SIX-FIGURE ANNUAL SUM.

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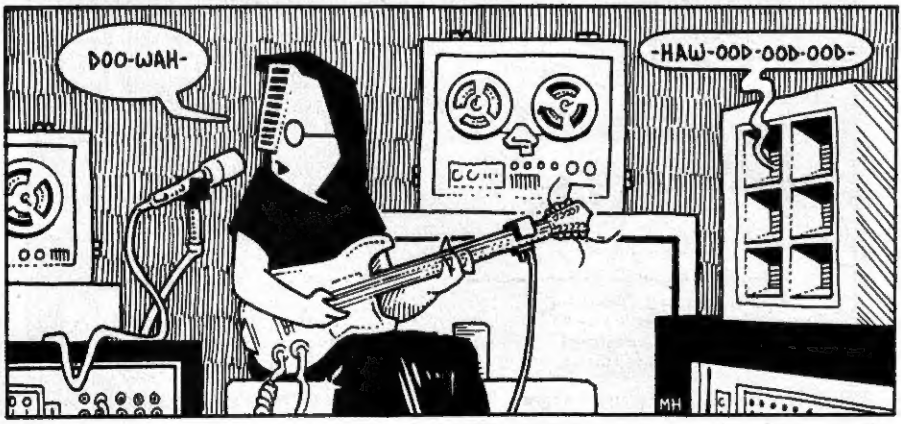
 ...BUT THIS ONE ENDS HERE...

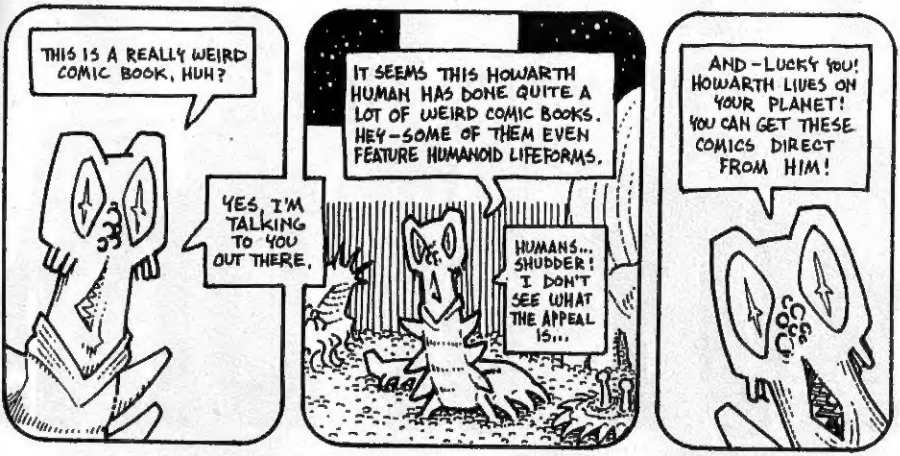
FLINTMOLE

BORN IN A HOLE

THEIR MOUNTAIN (used to be my hill)

ALL INSTRUMENTS PERFORMED BY FLINTMOLE.





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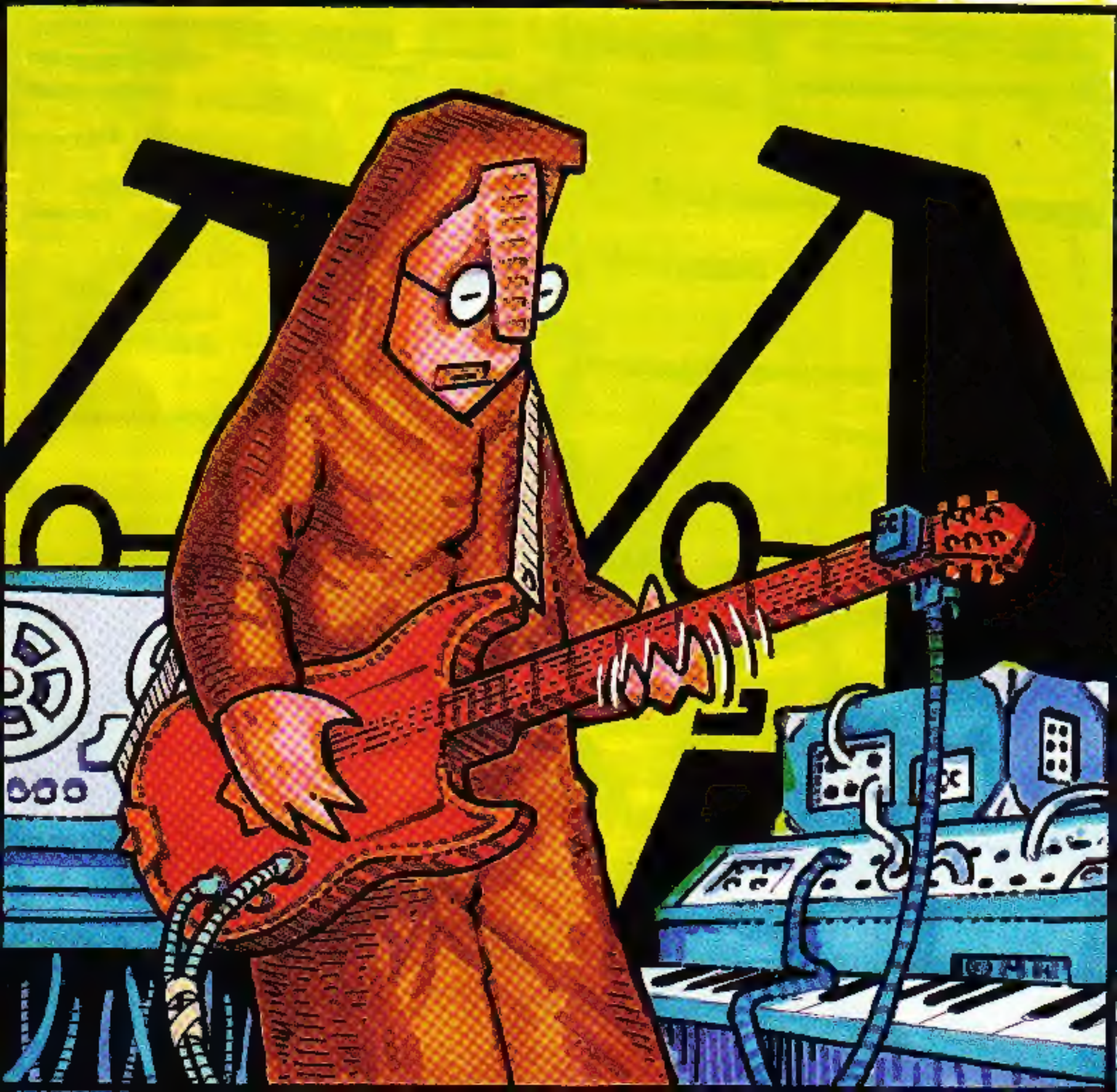
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